

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for managing file access, via an electronic message, ~~to a file maintained within a first domain~~, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;

(b) ~~accepting message addresses~~ creating an electronic message containing indicia of addresses and a reference to an electronic file, and generating file access authorization data, by performing at least one of the following acts:

(1) ~~recording-accepting~~, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted; and

(2) ~~recording either or both:~~

(i) ~~accepting~~, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file and generating associated file authorization data; and or

(ii) ~~(3)-recording-accepting~~, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file and generating associated file authorization data; and

(c) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses recorded identified by the indicia in the first field; and

(d) ~~upon in response to a request for access to the file~~ referenced in the electronic message by a viewer identified in the file access authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file, the reference identifying a location of the file.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) including in the electronic message window a file identification field; and
- (b) ~~recording~~ accepting indicia identifying the file in the file identification field.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field and wherein creating an electronic message further comprises accepting in the secondary message recipient field additional indicia of addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secret secondary message recipient field and wherein creating an electronic message further comprises accepting in the secret secondary message recipient field additional indicia of addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

- (a) the first field is labeled "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the secondary message recipient field is labeled "CC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the secret secondary message field is labeled "BCC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

- (a) the second field with the associated label "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the third field with the associated label "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message, to ~~an~~ addresses identified by indicia recorded in the first field, but not to addresses identified by indicia recorded in the second or third fields as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying an electronic message window further comprises:

- (a) accepting input from a user directing composition of an electronic message; and
- (b) responsive to the input, transmitting display rendering indicia to a window display subsystem to cause display of the electronic message window.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein transmitting the electronic message comprises transmitting a series of data frames, the frames comprising:

- (a) indicia identifying the file;
- (b) a message recipient address frame;
- (c) a file viewer frame including a header and a first set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of a viewer authorized to view the file; and
- (d) a file editor frame including a header and a second set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of an editor authorized to modify the file.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) receiving and displaying the message;

(b) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as a viewer or editor, permitting access to an image of the file; and

(c) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as an editor, further permitting access to modify the file.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access to a file, via an electronic message, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;

(b) ~~accepting message addresses creating an electronic message containing indicia of addresses and a reference to an electronic file, and generating file access authorization data, by performing at least one of the following acts:~~

(1) ~~recording-accepting~~, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted; and

(2) ~~recording either or both:~~

(i) ~~accepting~~, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file and generating associated file access authorization data; and or

(ii) ~~(3) recording-accepting~~, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file and generating associated file access authorization data;

(c) transmitting indicia of the electronic message to the addresses recorded identified by the indicia in the first field; and

(d) upon in response to a request for access to the file referenced in the electronic message by a viewer identified in the file access authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A system for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the system comprising:

(a) means for identifying addresses of one or more recipients of the message and designating each recipient as having viewing or editing privileges of the file; and

(b) means for transmitting the electronic message to the recipients within one or more domains distinct from the first domain such that, without transferring the file out of the first domain with the electronic message:

(1) any recipients designated as file viewers and recipients designated as file editors can access the file; and

(2) any recipients designated as file editors can modify the file.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) ~~causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to~~ display a message window that further includes a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to ~~include accept user input, into an~~ the electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia identifying any of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into identified in the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying as belonging to recipients having viewing privileges of for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for identifying any addresses identified in inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying as belonging to recipients having editing privileges of for the file.

Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising, before the acts recited in parts (a) and (b), installing one or more dynamically linked library files to a folder designated for software plug-ins of the electronic message program.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising preventing reconfiguring the electronic message program such that it no longer causes the transmission of from transmitting the file as an attachment to the electronic message, for to addresses belonging to recipients having viewing or editing privileges of the file and, instead, causing the electronic message program to transmit causes the transmission of the file to such addresses in the form of a reference to the location of the file.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein causing the electronic message program to transmit transmission in the form of a reference to the file comprises transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the electronic message program to indicate whether the file will be transmitted as an attachment to the electronic message or separately from the message.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein causing the message window to display a message window that further includes a file viewer field and a file editor field includes displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

- (a) the file viewer field is labeled "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the file editor field is labeled "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 22 (currently amended) A data storage medium comprising instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field, and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

- (a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to display a message window that further includes a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

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(b) causing the electronic message program to include accept user input, into an the electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia identifying any of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into identified in the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying as belonging to recipients having viewing privileges of for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for identifying any addresses identified in, inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying as belonging to recipients having editing privileges of for the file.

Claim 23 (original) The data storage medium of claim 22 wherein the indicia of

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and (2) encoding a data stream in the transmission medium of the network, the data stream having encoding a series of data frames, the frames comprising:

- (a) reference data identifying a file;
- (b) a message recipient frame;
- (c) a file viewer frame including a header and a first set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of a viewer authorized to view the file; and
- (d) a file editor frame including a header and a second set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of an editor authorized to modify the file.

Claim 27 (currently amended) The signal apparatus of claim 26 wherein the reference data includes indicia of a location of the file.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended) A method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting one or more file-accessor addresses for an electronic message; ~~(b) and~~ for each address, ~~determining~~ an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;
- ~~(e)(b)~~ transmitting the electronic message to the addresses, at least some of which are within ~~at least~~ a second domain distinct from the first domain; and
- ~~(d)(c)~~ based on the authorization status, for each electronic message sent to a file-accessor address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message; and for each electronic message sent to a file-accessor address not so authorized for direct file access, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 30 (original) The method of claim 29 wherein transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file identifying a location of the file.

Claim 31 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 32 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising: (a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field; and ~~(b) wherein accepting message addresses by performing at least one of the following acts comprises: (1) recording accepting, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted, and either or both;~~

~~(a)(2) recording accepting, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file; and or~~

~~(b)(3) recording accepting, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file.~~

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field and a secret secondary message recipient field and displaying:

- (a) the first field labeled as "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the secondary message field labeled as "CC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the secret secondary message field labeled as "BCC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 38 (previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

- (a) the second field labeled as "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the third field labeled as "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (canceled)

Claim 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the addresses to which the electronic message is transmitted are within one or more domains distinct from the first domain.

Claim 45 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit, in or with the message, a reference to the file that identifies a location of the file.

Claim 46 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 45 wherein the reference to be transmitted includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 47 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to display labels near respective fields of the electronic message window, wherein:

- (a) the label for the third field is "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the label for the first field is "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the label for the second field is "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 48 (currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit data, upon request by a recipient having viewing or editing privileges of the file to an address identified by indicia recorded in the second or third field.

Claim 49 (currently amended) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting one or more ~~file-accessor~~ addresses for an electronic message; ~~(b) and~~ for each address, ~~determining~~ an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;
- ~~(c)~~ transmitting the electronic message to the addresses, at least some of which are within at least a second domain distinct from the first domain; and
- ~~(d)~~ based on the authorization status, for each electronic message sent to a file-accessor address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message; and (e) for each electronic message sent to a file-accessor address not so authorized for direct file access, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 50 (currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 49 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

- (a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field; and
- (b) causing the electronic message program to include accept user input, into an the electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia identifying any of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into identified in the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying as

~~belonging to recipients having viewing privileges of for~~ a file identified in the file identification field, and ~~(ii) for identifying any addresses identified in inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying as belonging to recipients having editing privileges of for~~ the file.

Claim 51 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 50 wherein the indicia of instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 52 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 51 wherein the dynamically linked library files reside within a plug-in folder of the electronic message program.

Claim 53 (new) An apparatus comprising: (1) a transmission medium forming at least part of a computer network; and (2) a data stream in the transmission medium of the network, the data stream encoding data arranged in a plurality of data frames and comprising:

- (a) header data identifying a destination computer to which the signal is directed;
- (b) data, in a first frame, encoding the body of an email message displayable by the destination computer, if properly programmed;
- (c) data, in a second frame, identifying to the destination computer, if properly programmed, a computer-readable file at a defined location in a network;
- (d) data, in a third frame, identifying to the destination computer, if properly programmed, whether, if a user at the destination computer makes a request to view the file identified by data in the second frame at the defined location, a computer controlling access to the file will permit access to the file and display of the file at the destination computer; and
- (e) data, in a fourth frame, identifying to the destination computer, if properly programmed, whether, if a user at the destination computer makes a request to modify the file identified by data in the second frame at the defined location, a computer controlling access to the file will permit access to the file,

display of the file at the destination computer, and modification of the file through commands issued from the destination computer.

Claim 54 (new) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein data in the second frame of the data stream in the transmission medium of the network comprises data computer-readable as a computer program implementing a direct file access module.